# Nat'l Security Council | Niko official's

tion to question whether an NSC

will be a good or bad thing for the

country. Nor do we want to attrib-

ute any motive to those who have

pushed the idea to come as far as

it did. What we now categorically

demand is that the debate should

be brought to the public domain.

There will be tremendous benefit

in doing so. First, by knowing

about it in details, the public in

general and experts in the public

domain can make significant

contributions to the ideas now

being discussed in forming an

NSC. Such ideas can greatly

improve what is being proposed.

By involving the public at an early

stage, their ownership can be far

better guaranteed than bringing

them in at a point far advanced.

so far been shrouded in mystery,

the public domain is filled with all

sorts of unhealthy and unhelpful

rumours, speculations and more

damagingly, suspicions. When

there is an absence of informa-

tion, the space is automatically

filled up by rumours, misinfor-

mation, and unkind interpreta-

tions. Given the fact that we have

been ill served by our leaders in

the past, especially by those who

have extra-constitutional origin,

suspicion is natural and rejection

is almost automatic. The present

Permit us to conclude with

government must be aware of it,

some reality check. When govern-

ment do things people want, they

last. Even unrepresentative gov-

ernments like the present one will

be long remembered for their

anti-corruption drive, the elec-

toral reforms, the ID cards, and

the voter list (assuming that no

major flaw will be discovered),

the Human Rights Commission

(which needs some changes), the

policy on women and the Right to

Information Act (to be enacted

soon). Nothing has ever been

durable that has been forced

down the throat of our people.

Many institutions and laws were

enacted but did not stand the test

of time simply because the peo-

ple were not taken into confi-

dence while formulating them,

and were not involved in imple-

writ jurisdiction cannot act as an

appellate forum for deciding

question that involves interpreta-

tion of party constitution on the

also settled that the High Court in

exercise of its power under writ

jurisdiction does not embark on

resolution of political question,

having regard to the lack of judi-

cially discoverable and manage-

able standards for resolving such a

summary procedure of writ juris-

diction was not appropriate for

adjudication of issues involving

disputed question of fact, which

requires consideration of evidence

and contested factual issues, he

affidavits filed by the respondents

Under the circumstances, the

court, to adjudicate on these, will

need to hold an investigation on

the basis of evidence, which it

question involving internal pro-

ceedings of a political party could

be resolved by those involved in

this dispute, or by an appropriate

He told the court that the

Since the meeting for the

November 22 dialogue had been

cise to pass any declaration that the

November 5 EC letter of invitation

no such element in the writ peti-

"We have come here with a

complaint that the EC has done

wrong," he went on, adding that

cancelled, it would be a futile exer-

court based on evidence.

He further argued that the issue

cannot do in the writ jurisdiction.

found material facts disputed.

Dr Kamal submitted that the

Thirdly, it was settled that the

Secondly, he contended, it was

internal affairs of a political party.

menting them.

FROM PAGE 16

question.

argued.

and be extremely sensitive to it.

Because the NSC process has

That will only alienate them.

on the substantive aspects of the idea. However, we can and do intend to comment on the process so far followed. Bluntly put, whatever thinking has gone behind the NSC idea has been behind closed doors. Nothing has been shared with the public, and that is where our biggest objection lies. Why a matter of such importance has been worked at in such a hidden manner? The authorities may argue, since nothing has been finalised, there s nothing to make public to seek their views on.

give them new rights.

The main feature common to all of them is that they were all demand driven --- meaning there was demand from the public for such institutions, laws, and policies. In fact there is a long history of struggle of the people behind each of the above developments. In each of the aforementioned cases the government responded to a long-standing public demand. So the question is what is the demand base of NSC? Is

Well the answer can be that even when there is no public demand, the government on its own can think of ideas, policies, and institutions that can be good for the public. We agree. But then the public must be given a chance to understand what it is all about. nale, its need, its justification, its this organisation will serve public interest better. The key word is public interest'.

At this stage it is not dur threllen

A high official of NBR said if the agencies concerned find it viable that reduction of duty will help reduce the price of edible oil, the government may consider it in

oil reduced slightly at city markets yesterday and the retailers claimed that the supply has increased. Soya bean oil was selling at Tk

130 per kg at retail markets on Saturday, breaking all records. The price went down to Tk 118 per kg yesterday.

are now supplying as much soya bean oil as they demanded per day. Abdur Rahman, a retailer at Karwan Bazar, said they got ade-

edible oil a day, but on Friday and Saturday we got a very small supply against our demands," he said.

### 3 ordinances

Once the ordinances are promulgated, the Election Commission (EC) can declare schedules of the local government elections, he added.

Election Commission (EC) had already complied with the High Asked if the government is hurry-Court's interim order canceling the ing for the local government elecscheduled November 22 meeting tions, the adviser said that this is not a matter of hurry as there are court with Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed orders for holding these elections on electoral reforms. "Thus the writ petitioner had already obtained full relief.

not say that elections in 100 upazila parishads would be held in May and observed that there are upazila parishads, but no elected represen-

latives at present. Anwarul Iqbal said that voter listing of 80 upazilas has been completed and the EC may hold elections in those upazila parishads after city

The adviser observed that the local government institutions have so far been centrally controlled, but once the ordinances are promulgated, such controls from the minis-

The role of members of parliament as advisers to the upazila parishads has been abolished in the finalised amendment to the Upazila Parishad Act, he said, adding that the

sources of income of the local government bodies were also increased. "Administrative skills" that were

written as qualifications of the local government commission members in the act have been replaced by experienced in local government", meaning that it was not mandatory to have administrative skills, but they have to have experience in local government affairs, the adviser said. Officials from the ministries of LGRD, home, law were present at the

Zia and four others.

were not available immediately. Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Waliul Islam recorded the statement of the witness after Assistant Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) SM Sahidur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, brought

Earlier on December 30 last year, Khaleda was shown arrested in the case following a petition submitted by the IO of the case. Detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain were also shown

Mahbubul Alam, an assistant director of the ACC, filed the case on December 9 with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia and four

The case statement said Khaleda Zia, despite being the custodian of the country's wealth as a prime minister, criminally awarded Niko the opportunity to extract Tk 10,000 crore worth of gas through violating her oath and abuse of power.

Khaleda was arrested on September 2 last year following the filing of the Gatco graft case against

The ACC also accused former energy secretary Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam, and Vice-president (South Asia) of Niko Research Bangladesh Ltd Kashem Sharifin the case.

Former Dhaka Club president Selim Bhuiyan was earlier arrested in connection with the case. On January 15 he gave a confessional statement saying that all the dealings between the Bangladesh government and the Canadian energy company Niko were made through

statement, detained controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun was shown arrested in the case and the ACC was permitted to interrogate him at jail gate.

### BRAC bank heist

Daily Star yesterday.

two were taken to a court and placed on a six-day remand.

Six days after their arrests, Shukkur, who hails from Chittagong, and Yunus were paraded before the journalists at the DB office yesterday

their role and narrated how they pulled off the heist," said Nasirullah, also the investigation officer (IO) in the case filed for the robbery that took place at the bank's Sukrabad branch sometime between January 3 and 7.

Shukkur and his gang pierced through the bank's roof and made off lockers.

number of occasions. We had rented rooms at Hotel Nidmahal located just

After we were done with stealing from the lockers, we tried to leave the a huge sum.

masterminds are Masuk and Hanif." DB teams have recovered around 500 tolas of gold, five pieces of diamond, 200 tolas of silver ornaments, and Tk 8

manager (GM) Ekramul Hug

The other two accused in the case are Mohammad Ali, MD of Trident Agency, and Mahbubur Rahman, proprietor of Rahman Service Station.

In the other case, the ACC accused six RPGCL officials -- Elahi, Abedin, Wadud, Ekram, Karim and manager Nawshad Azam -- of misappropriating over Tk 9.75 crore from 1993 through 2004.

FROM PAGE 1 Afan Ullah, Irfan Hossain, Abdul Hakim and Bazlur Rahman, constables Abdul Hashem and Ali Haider, and Nilkamal UP Chairman Iqbal

Hossain Likhon. In the complaint, Masum's father Khandaker Abul Khair said UP Chairman Likhon, with whom he had an enmity, in collusion with some DB men picked up his son from Mehedi Community Centre at Mohammadpur in the capital at

family, who live in a house on Sher Shah Shuri road in Mohammadpur, came to know from the news on private TV channel ATN Bangla that the dead body of a youth was lying at the Dhaka Medical College Morgue. They had been looking for Masum since his disappearance and went to the morgue and found his body.

against the same accused with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on August 18, 2005.

After the hearing of the case, the court directed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to take legal action against the accused upon investigating the matter.

After investigation the police submitted a report saying the charges brought against the accused were not proved.

against the police report.

# Hasina should

FROM PAGE 1

blasts, have requested the jail authorities to send her to their hospital in Florida without delay. In a letter, they suggested that software of the hearing aids

installed in her ears should have immediate adjustments, said a personal physician of the ailing jail former prime minister. Meanwhile, the AL Presidium vesterday called on the govern-

ment to release its chief immediately and with no strings attached. It also decided to write to the chief adviser in a day or two, urging him to arrange for her to get treatment in the US. Under supervision of Dr Millat,

the AL president was taken to the hospital at 8:46am. She has been allotted a cabin on the 14th floor. Tight security measures were in place in and around the private medical facility on Panthapath.

Earlier on Monday, she agreed to be hospitalised as proposed by the caretaker government.

Talking to The Daily Star in the afternoon, medicine specialist Dr Abdullah said they are unanimous tials. in their opinion that she must be sent to the US hospital where she had her ear devices installed and updated from time to time. "Otherwise, we are afraid she might go permanently deaf."

However, her other medical conditions can be treated here, he added.

"We have already sent our recommendations to the jail authorities in writing," said Dr Abdullah.

Prof Tahir, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), told reporters that the ENT specialists who have examined Hasina think it would not be wise even to "touch her damaged ears". She should be treated at the medical centre where she got treatment earlier.

Deputy Inspector General (prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told The Daily Star at 8:00pm that the recommendations did not yet reach them. "Let us receive the recommendations first and only then we will decide on the

However, Suraiya Bulbul, the doctor assigned to monitor the health condition of Hasina at the subjail on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex, has received a letter from one of her personal physicians, he

Meanwhile, some highly placed sources told The Daily Star that her hospitalisation is in fact part of the government plan to send her abroad within several days.

Besides ear problems, she has allergy and high blood pressure.

Sources said four other doctors--Dr Shaila Khatun and Dr Baren Chakrabarty and two others nomi-

Dhaka suggested that the vast mate-

rial resources of the Islamic coun-

tries, including the huge sovereign

wealth surpluses, could be pressed

move from talk to action, from

vague deliberations to implemen-

tation with practical measures for

the benefit of our people," he told

the ICFM meet ahead of the OIC

summit, beginning in Dakar

Developed Countries (LDCs),

Bangladesh tabled a proposal for a

special OIC programme for the

of the Islamic countries should be

will not succeed until we learn to

ing a series of bilateral meetings in

Dakar with his other counterparts,

The foreign adviser is also hav-

The huge manpower resources

As chairman of the Least

"The time has surely come to

into this role and service.

## CA off to Dakar

mentation of its 10-Year Programme of Action and adoption of the revised OIC Charter. It will have two brainstorming sessions on economic cooperation among member-states, especially African nations, and knowledge sharing among the member-states.

Accompanying activities to the summit meet include the first NGO and civil-society conference by the OIC and another conference on science and technology.

### Oil prices FROM PAGE 16

Oil prices are also heading higher analysts said

Tuesday), extending yesterday's rally and reaching fresh record highs in both London and New York, still underpinned by strong demand for dollar-denominated commodities and with oil seen as a good hedge against inflation," said Sucden analyst Andrey Kryuchenkov.

"Inflation fears are still very strong, outweighing prospects of a slower growth in the US and lower seasonal demand for oil in the second quarter."

At the same time, the oil market is under intense pressure from stretched supplies and demand from the United States -- the world's biggest energy consuming nation and Asian powerhouses China and

prices have blazed a record-breaking trail, smashing through 107 and 108 dollars in New York on Monday

"Currently concerns over a weakening US economy are leading investors to find a haven in commodities as the dollar weakens on expectations of further cuts in US interest rates," energy consultancy John Hall Associates wrote in a note to clients.

of fundamentals" of supply and demand, they added. In Paris on Tuesday, meanwhile, the International Energy Agency

warned that high prices were here to "We are in an era of higher oil prices," the IEA said in a monthly

estimate for world oil demand this year to 87.5 million barrels per day "with downward pressures from weaker economic growth in the OECD mostly offset by stronger former Soviet Union (FSU) projections.

FROM PAGE 1

The energy shortage would become acute after 2009 if new gas finds are not made, Tamim said.

"Now our industries are expanding quickly and we have huge investments in gas-based power plants. We're facing a growing energy crisis," Tamim said.

Bangladesh has daily demand for 1,800 million cubic feet of gas but the country's 23 gas fields can provide only 1,700 million cubic feet as lack of investment in new exploration since late 1990s has outstripped supply.

"Since 1999, there was hardly any investment in new gas discoveries as the companies did not see any market for gas here," Tamim

The southeastern city of Chittagong is home to the country's largest gas-guzzling industries such as fertiliser and steel and is running short of gas.

"I've told the Chittagong-based companies not to hope too much. Some big companies which want to expand are now suffering and the situation may continue for a while," Tamim said.

In an effort to step up future supply, the country's militarybacked government has already invited bids from foreign oil companies to explore for gas and oil in the hydrocarbon-rich Bay of

In addition, companies such as Chevron, Total, Cairn Energy and Bangladesh's state-owned Bapex have started exploring for oil in their onshore and offshore blocks, Tamim added.

Bangladesh has proven recoverable gas reserves of 14 trillion cubic feet according to the latest survey, the deputy minister said.

The reserves are expected to last until 2022 if no new discovery is made, he said.

### Second ODI FROM PAGE 16

and slow while the visitors are also likely to include two spinners in Johan Botha and Paul Harris.

But the Tigers' main headache lies in their batting and they have to put up at least a decent total on the board first if they want to put an end to their disappointing performance in the series.

Mohammad Ashraful's boys made a meek surrender in Chittagong in the first match on March 9 mainly because of their poor batting as they were bundled out for 178 which the touring side overtook comfortably thanks to a masterly hundred by captain Graeme Smith.

The match will start at 9:30am with NEO Sports and state-run Bangladesh Television beaming the live coverage. TEAMS

BANGLADESH: Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Tamim Igbal, 1 Shahriar Nafees, Nazimuddin, Shakib Al Hasan, Rokibul Hassan, Dhiman Ghosh (wicketkeeper) Abdur Razzak, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Mosharraf Hossain and Syed Rasel.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers (wicketkeeper), Jean-Paul Duminy Albie Morkel, Johan Botha, Charl Langeveldt, Paul Harris, Morne Morkel, Andre Nel, Dale Stevn Alviro Petersen.

## HBM Igbal

FROM PAGE 16 parliament complex.

All the convicts are absconding and were tried in absentia.

Judge Firoz in his judgment also directed the government to confiscate their wealth worth Tk 14.56 crore, which is disproportionate to the known sources of income of Igbal, also a businessman. Iqbal has been convicted for

concealing his wealth worth over Tk 10 crore in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC and for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 2 crore beyond his known source of income.

His two sons were found guilty for accumulating wealth worth over Tk 13 lakh and his daughter amassed wealth worth over Tk 1 crore through illegal means.

The case was filed against Iqbal on charges of amassing huge wealth through illegal means and concealing information in the wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission

Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case against Iqbal, his wife, two sons and a daughter with Gulshan police on June 25. According to the case statement, Iqbal concealed information

about an illegally acquired Tk 5.3 crore house on Gulshan Avenue which he registered in his wife's name, and Tk 5 crore fixed deposit. On February 18 last year, the ACC had issued notice to 50 graft

suspects, including Iqbal, asking them to submit their wealth state-Of the 50, those who were in jail were asked to submit their wealth

statement through prisons author-

rest were directed to submit it to ACCheadquarters in person. Iqbal was not in jail but he submitted his statement through his representatives obtaining a High Court order.

# Myanmar rejects | Right to information

representative from Manusher

The draft has 27 articles including one for formation of an information commission which will be able to fine up to Tk 25,000 and recommend punishments as per the service rules if any quarter fails to provide information to citizens in a stipulated

Stressing the need for the law, Dr Kamal Hossain suggested inclusion of people from all strata for having realistic and meaningful discussions in a bid to formulate an accurate law.

"Everyone at the grassroots level should have access to information as it is a fundamental right," he stressed. Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman

of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said political parties should be included in the discussions as they are also the stakeholders who will have to pass the ordinance in the next parliament. Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily

Star, also strongly stressed the point adding, "But I don't accept the notion that we can't march forward if they don't give their consent." The caretaker government might introduce the ordinance but it will

not be in a position to implement it. Those who will come to the next legislature might repeal it if they do not accept it, Prof Rehman Sobhan Former lawmaker of Jatiya Party

GM Quader, and MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam stressed the need for the proposed law's consistent implementation. To facilitate the RTI, Prof Rehman

strongly emphasised on the need for an administrative reform to ensure transparency in the government, where much of the government information can be made available.

OBLIGATIONS & EXEMPTIONS Many discussants demanded voluntary disclosure of information so the people will not have to apply for

Former minister MK Anwar said, "If the information officer is not ready to give information, let him explain why, because the people's right to information has been established," prompting Mahfuz Anam and some other discussants to sec-

Saying that successive governments so far have shown staunch intransigence to disclose information, MK Anwar said the people will end up having only a very little access to information if the list of exemp-

tionsistoolong Article eight of the draft says information related to state security, sovefeignty, dignity, foreign policy, defence, relations with foreign countries or foreign organisations, commerce or trade interests, technical scientific interest, income tax, customs and excise duties, monitoring and executive operations of financial organisations, and disclosures counter to public interest will be

exempted. MK Anwar termed unrealistic the expectation that the grassroots people will travel to the capital to

information commission. "You either re-draft the exemptions part or totally scrap it," said Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of

the Bangladesh Observer. AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain wondered how a country's foreign policy be a matter of secrecy.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud said political parties and voluntary organisations should also be obliged to disclose information to the people. INFORMATION COMMISSION

According to the draft, the president of the country will appoint a chief information commissioner and two commissioners on recommendations from a search committee, to be headed by a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, having the cabinet secretary, and chairmen of the Public Service

Commission and University Grants

Commission as members. Several speakers apprehended that the commission's independence might be hampered due to the budgeting process stipulated in the

Some discussants suggested that

### Musharrat

FROM PAGE 16

Both Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) -- which won the most seats in the February 18 ballot -and Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) had accused Musharraf of deliberately delaying the first parliamentary sitting.

The pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Q, which was in government between 2002 and November 2007, lost heavily in the elections.

The biggest threat to Musharraf ACC Assistant Director is likely to come from Zardari and Sharif's pledge on Sunday to pass legislation within the first 30 days of the new parliament that will reinstate judges ousted by the president in November.

> The dismissed judges -- including chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, Musharraf's arch-foe -- could take up legal challenges to Musharraf's re-election as president last October if they are restored.

Musharraf imposed a state of emergency and sacked some 60 judges on November 3, days before the Supreme Court was due to rule on the legality of his new presidential term, which he secured while ities or their representatives. The he was still army chief. He stepped down as head of the

army in November -- just over eight years after he seized power in a military coup -- under intense domestic and international pressure.

the commission should be able to place its budget directly in the parliament, instead of going through any

The discussants suggested letting the commission itself decide appointments of its necessary manpower, and to let itself formulate its

Reazuddin Ahmed, editor of the daily News Today, demanded inclusion of media representatives in the

"Why only government officials?" Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of the daily Manabzamin, questioned, proposing inclusion of an editor of a news outlet or the chairman of the press council instead of the UGC chairman or the cabinet

When advocate Alina Khan suggested forming the information commission with five to seven members, instead of three members as proposed in the draft, to include rights experts and media representatives, AK Mohammad Hossain, a joint secretary to the law ministry, suggested that there might be a provision for 10 to 11 honorary mem-

time for journalists to wait for tion on demand.

with necessary information quickly and help them in confirming those,' Reazuddin Ahmed suggested. Several discussants demanded repeal of all existing laws obstructing

The Bangladesh Observer editor suggested that government offices should publish annual reports on their rules, regulations, manuals, activities, decisions, and duties of officials and employees, instead of

up designated forms. Shaheen Anam said the grass-

roots people do not even know about the safety net programmes while Nigar Sultana of ActionAid Bangladesh stressed the need for properly informing the people about their rights. Head of the draft committee

presented key features of the draft in his opening remarks while Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzman moderated the discussion.

### Anti-Islam law

FROM PAGE 16 Hassan Ariff further told the Ulema that the women development policy is not a law, it is only a policy lodge complaints with the proposed to work out measures for protecting women from different forms of

> harassment and deprivations. It does not even contain anything

> Commerce and Education Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and Communications, Housing and Public Works Adviser Maj Gen Ghulam Quader (retd) were also

## Iwin suicide

FROM PAGE 1

"An explosives-laden vehicle

was rammed into the office," inte-

rior ministry spokesman Brigadier

Javed Cheema said. It was not immediately clear why the adver-President Pervez Musharraf, a key US ally in the "war on terror", condemned the "savage act" and

the scourge with full force," state media reported. The explosions came a week after two suicide bombers struck a naval college in Lahore, killing at least five people, in the third attack to hit the previously peaceful city

major blasts since parliamentary polls on February 18, which were won by the opposition parties of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto and former prime minister Nawaz

suicide attack in the garrison city of

Musharraf on Tuesday summoned the new parliament to meet on March 17, his spokesman Rashid Qureshi told AFP -- finally setting up showdown with his rivals that could potentially further destabilise the nuclear-armed

engulfing the country.

Well, the matter is just not that simple. Since the coming of the present caretaker government we have seen a few very positive developments in terms of ensuring transparency and accountability of the government. The reconstitution of the Election Commission, Anti-corruption Commission (it was really a rebirth), and the Public Service Commission, the just announced policy on women, the imminent formation of Human Rights Commission, and the current process of enacting the Right to Information Law. All these will greatly enhance good governance, empower citizens, assure them of justice and fair play, and

there any public demand for it?

The public must know its ratiocost, and most importantly how

Soaring prices FROM PAGE 1 pipeline," he said.

Meanwhile, the prices of edible

Retailers said the wholesalers

quate supply from the dealers. "Earlier I sold around 200kg

done fast when the advisory council forwards the drafts to it for vetting, the LGRD adviser said.

within six months after their terms end. The time has expired in some cases, Anwarul Iqbal noted. The adviser reiterated that he did

for dialogue is of no legal effect, Dr Kamal said. Earlier, TH Khan, the counsel for BNP chairperson, opposing Dr Kamal Hossain, submitted that it is very risky to define for the jurists corporation elections. and judges what is pure political question of disputed fact. There is

tion, he said, so it can come under judicial review. tries will be removed to a great extent. "Our case is very simple and clear...we have challenged the validity of the decision of the Election Commission and its action that caused political leadership dispute in BNP," Khan told the court.

the High Court in exercise of its writ jurisdiction can resolve the issue as it has wide ambit of jurisdiction. Khan said his client, although a political party chief, has not come here seeking remedy for solving any political issue. The hearing resumes today.

However, details of the statement

him before the court.

arrested in the case the same day.

Based on Selim's confessional

cohort Yunus Ali on March 5 night at Kadamtali village in Keraniganj. Tk 6 lakh was seized during the swoop, DB inspector AKM Nasirullah told The The following day [March 6] the

"In interrogations, they admitted

with ornaments and other valuables worth several crore taka from 60 Talking to reporters, he said, "Me and my men had visited the bank on a

country but failed due to betrayal of the travelling agency that we had paid Nasirullah said, "The two other In drives across the country, the

# lakh in cash.

RPGCL officials The accused RPGCL officials are present Managing Director (MD) Abdul Wadud, present Director (finance) M Golam Mostafa, former managing directors ABM Fazle Elahi and Major (retd) Raihanul Abedin, former acting MD and general

Chowdhury and ex-GM AKM Rezaul Karim

9 DB men

about 8:00pm on July 8, 2005. The following day Khair and his

Later, Khair filed a petition case

Khair filed the case yesterday

nated by the government--could soon join the seven to examine her thoroughly. In three weeks, this is the second time she is at the Square Hospital. On February 21, after a couple of hours' stay for check-ups there she

was taken back to the makeshift Briefing the newsmen in front of the hospital, DIG Prisons said they learnt on Monday night that the AI chief would be admitted to hospital. "We preferred Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

ferred Square," he said. They would take further steps following up the doctors' suggestions after all necessary examina-

policy-making body, at a meeting chaired by acting president Zillur Rahman demanded that the gov-

Briefing the journalists, AL acting general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said the Presidium observed that the caretaker government's only duty is to have the

It asked the military-backed administration to lift the state of emergency and ban on political

sures to contain price spiral.

### Sri Lanka

FROM PAGE 16 meetings are scheduled to be held from July 27 to August 3.

"Colombo city hotels have been

The shifting of the venue from

international and regional media contingent, it said. However, picturesque Kandy, located about 80 kms northeast of Colombo, is being retained as the

will specially focus on the imple-

because investors are seeking a safe place for their cash amid fears of rising inflation and a US recession, "Crude futures held firm (on

In recent days and weeks, oil

"This is outweighing the impact

market report. The IEA trimmed its monthly

Jonno Foundation (MJF) in it.

government.

rules, instead of letting the government have the authority.

commission.

secretary, in the search committee.

PROVISION FOR THE MEDIA Saying that 20 days are too long a

required information, editors of different national dailies suggested making an arrangement to provide journalists with necessary informa-"There could be a central body for journalists that would provide them

disclosure of information, saying otherwise the RTI law will be tooth-

biennial ones as proposed in the They opined for allowing the people to apply for information without making it compulsory to fill

concerning inheritance, he added.

### present at the meeting.

blast was also caused by a suicide car bomb and hit an advertising agency in an upscale neighbourhood of the city, killing another four people, including two children, police said.

tising firm was targeted said the "acts of terrorism cannot deter government's resolve to fight

Pakistan has been rocked by six

Bhutto herself was killed in a

nation.

Pakistan has been combating an

Rawalpindi on December 27.

Bhutto's widower Asif Ali Zardari and Sharif on Sunday agreed to form a coalition government that is expected to take on Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in 1999, but they must also grapple with the tide of violence

Islamist insurgency led by Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters since Musharraf joined the US-led "war on terror" in 2001, but the violence has soared since the start of 2007.

### utilised to maximise their contribution and welfare, said Iftekhar while mooting the proposal. He mentioned the political crises that confront the Islamic world and said, "We cannot and

speak in one voice."

tomorrow.

FROM PAGE 1

says a message from the Senegalese capital. Zandal FROM PAGE 16 nection with the grenade attack, is under trial at the Sylhet Divisional

Speedy Trial Tribunal while the

arms and explosives case is under

trial at the Additional District and

Sessions Judge's Court.

aftertheattack.

clues.

Depositions of 53 prosecution witnesses have already been recorded in the murder case while six gave depositions in the second case. The district judge of Sylhet on July 12 last year acquitted 20 of the accused people as their names were dropped from the charge sheet. They were arrested from the shrine area

Three people were killed and

Bangladesh-born British High

Commissioner Anwar Choudhury

along with 70 others were hurt in the grenade attack that took place after the Juma prayers on May 21, 2004 at Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet. Special Branch of Police (SB) Assistant Sub-inspector Kamal Uddin, Habibur Rahman Habib and college student Zobayer Ahmed

Days after the incident, the inves-

tigation of the cases was transferred

to the CID as police failed to find any

Rubel were killed in the attack.

Atiqur Rahman filed two charge sheets accusing four people--Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, his prother Mofizur Rahman and Huji operatives Delwar Hossain Ripon and Sharif Shahedul Alam alias Bipul on June 9, 2007.

The CID's Senior ASP Munshi

Hospital or Apollo. But she pre-

ALPRESIDIUM The Presidium, the party's highest

ernment send their leader to the US for treatment. It also discussed overall political situation and price hikes of essen-

national election held in a free and fair manner.

activities. Presidium members Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Kazi Zafrullah and Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser were present at the meeting that also called for effective mea-

identified to accommodate around 1200 delegates and media personnel associated with the event," an official statement said. Kandy to Colombo has been done due to inadequate infrastructure facilities to accommodate the

seven heads of state, their respec-

tive delegations and the large

### venue for events associated with the summit, the statement said.